Numb. 167

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Segnius irritant Animos dimiſſa per Aures,
Quam quæ ſunt Oculis ſubmiſſa fidelibus.—— Hor.

From *Tueſday May* 2. to *Thurſday May* 4. 1710.

From my own Apartment, May 2.

HAVING received Notice, That the famous Actor Mr. *Betterton* was to be interred this Evening in the Cloyſters near *Weſtminſter-Abbey*, I was reſolved to walk thither, and ſee the laſt Office done to a Man whom I had always very much admired, and from whoſe Action I had received more ſtrong Impreſſions of what is great and noble in human Nature, than from the Arguments of the moſt ſolid Philoſophers, or the Deſcriptions of the moſt charming Poets, I had ever read. As the rude and untaught Multitude are no Way wrought upon more effectually than by ſeeing publick Puniſhments and Executions, ſo Men of Letters and Education feel their Humanity moſt forcibly exerciſed, when they attend the Obſequies of Men who had arrived at any Perfection in Liberal Accompliſhments. Theatrical Action is to be eſteemed as ſuch, except it be objected, that we cannot call that an Art which cannot be attained by Art. Voice, Stature, Motion, and other Gifts, muſt be very bountifully beſtowed by Nature, or Labour and Induſtry will but puſh the unhappy Endeavourer, in that Way, the further off his Wiſhes.

Such an Actor as Mr. *Betterton* ought to be recorded with the ſame Reſpect as *Roſcius* among the *Romans*. The greateſt Orator has thought fit to quote his Judgment, and celebrate his Life. *Roſcius* was the Example to all that would form themſelves into proper and winning Behaviour. His Action was ſo well adapted to the Sentiments he expreſſed, that the Youth of *Rome* thought they wanted only to be virtuous to be as graceful in their Appearance as *Roſcius*. The Imagination took a lovely Impreſſion of what was great and good, and they who never thought of ſetting up for the Art of Imitation, became themſelves imitable Characters.

There is no human Invention ſo aptly calculated for the forming a Free-born People as that of a Theatre. *Tully* reports, That the celebrated Player, of whom I am ſpeaking, uſed frequently to ſay, *The Perfection of an Actor is only to become what he is doing*. Young Men, who are too unattentive to receive Lectures, are irreſiſtibly taken with Performances. Hence it is, that I extremely lament the little Reliſh the Gentry of this Nation have at preſent for the juſt and noble Repreſentations in ſome of our Tragedies. The Opera's which are of late introduced, can leave no Trace behind them that can be of Service beyond the preſent Moment. To ſing and to dance are Accompliſhments very few have any Thoughts of practiſing; but to ſpeak juſtly, and move gracefully, is what every Man thinks he does perform, or wiſhes he did.

I have hardly a Notion that any Performer of Antiquity could ſurpaſs the Action of Mr. *Betterton* in any of the Occaſions in which he has appeared on our Stage. The wonderful Agony which he appeared in when he examined the Circumſtance of the Handkerchief in *Othello*; the Mixture of Love that intruded upon his Mind upon the innocent Anſwers *Deſdemona* makes, betrayed in his Geſture ſuch a Variety and Viciſſitude of Paſſions, as would admoniſh a Man to be afraid of his own Heart, and perfectly convince him, that it is to ſtab it, to admit that worſt of Daggers, Jealouſy. Whoever reads in his Cloſet this admirable Scene, will find, that he cannot, except he has as warm an Imagination as *Shakeſpeare* himſelf, find any but dry, incoherent, and broken Sentences; but a Reader that has ſeen *Betterton* act it, obſerves there could not be a Word added; that longer Speech had been unnatural, nay impoſſible, in *Othello*'s Circumſtances. The charming Paſſage in the ſame Tragedy, where he tells the Manner of winning the Affection of his Miſtreſs, was urged with ſo moving and graceful an Energy, that while I walked in the Cloyſters, I thought of him with the ſame Concern as if I waited for the Remains of a Perſon who had in real Life done all that I had ſeen him repreſent. The Gloom of the Place, and faint Lights before the Ceremony appeared, contributed to the melancholy Diſpoſition I was in; and I began to be extremely afflicted, that *Brutus* and *Caſſius* had any Difference, that *Hotſpur*'s Gallantry was ſo unfortunate, and that the Mirth and good Humour of *Falſtaff*, could not exempt him from the Grave. Nay, this Occaſion in me, who look upon the Diſtinctions amongſt Men to be merely Scenical, raiſed Reflections upon the Emptineſs of all human Perfection and Greatneſs in general, and I could not but regret, that the ſacred Heads which lie buried in the Neighbourhood of this little Portion of Earth in which my poor old Friend is depoſited, are

are returned to Duſt as well as he, and that there is no Difference in the Grave between the imaginary and the real Monarch. This made me ſay of human Life it ſelf with *Mackbeth:*

To Morrow, to Morrow, and to Morrow,
Creeps in a ſtealing Pace from Day to Day,
To the laſt Moment of recorded Time!
And all our Yeſterdays have lighted Fools
To their Eternal Night! Out, out, ſhort Candle!
Life's but a Walking Shadow, a poor Player,
That ſtruts and frets his Hour upon the Stage,
And then is heard no more.

The Mention I have here made of Mr. *Betterton*, for whom I had, as long as I have known any Thing, a very great Eſteem and Gratitude for the Pleaſure he gave me, can do him no good, but it may poſſibly be of Service to the unhappy Woman he has left behind him, to have it known, That this great Tragedian was never in a Scene half ſo moving as the Circumſtances of his Affairs created at his Departure. His Wife, after the Cohabitation of Forty Years in the ſtricteſt Amity, has long pined away with a Senſe of his Decay as well in his Perſon as his little Fortune, and in Proportion to that, ſhe has her ſelf decay'd both in her Health and her Reaſon. Her Husband's Death, added to her Age and Infirmities, would certainly have determined her Life, but that the Greatneſs of her Diſtreſs has been her Relief, by a preſent Depravation of her Senſes. This Abſence of Reaſon is her beſt Defence againſt Age, Sorrow, Poverty, and Sickneſs. I dwell upon this Account ſo diſtinctly, in Obedience to a certain great Spirit, who hides her Name, and has by Letter applied to me to recommend to her ſome Object of Compaſſion, from whom ſhe may be concealed

This, I think, is a proper Occaſion for exerting ſuch heroick Generoſity; and as there is an ingenuous Shame in thoſe who have known better Fortune to be reduced to receive Obligations, as well as a becoming Pain in the truly Generous to receive Thanks in this Caſe, both thoſe Delicacies are preſerved; for the Perſon obliged is as incapable of knowing her Benefactreſs, as her Benefactreſs is unwilling to be known by her.

Errata *in the laſt:* Col. 1. Lin. 17. *inſtead of* the Liberal Science, *read* the only Liberal Science; *for* telle, *read* tell.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Whereas it has been ſignified to the Cenſor, *That under the Pretence that he has encouraged the* Moving Picture, *and particularly admired the* Walking Statue, *ſome Perſons within the Liberties of* Weſtminſter *have vended Walking Pictures, inſomuch that the ſaid Pictures have within few Days after Sales by Auction returned to the Habitation of their firſt Proprietors; that Matter has been narrowly looked into, and Orders are given to* Pacolet *to take Notice of all who are concerned in ſuch Frauds, with Directions to draw their Pictures, that they may be hanged* in Effigie, in Terrorem *of all Auctions for the future.*

N. B. *All poſſible Care is taken to prevent falſe Purchaſers at the Sale mentioned in the following Advertiſement.*

A Small Parcel of excellent Pictures, lately brought from beyond Sea, of Nicholas and Gaſpar Pouſſin, Luca Jordano, Claude Lorain, Franceſco Bologneſe, Franceſco Mola, Brouwer, Teniers, Wouwerman, Berchem, and other celebrated Maſters, will be ſold by Auction on Monday the 8th Inſtant, at Mr. Breſſans at the Two Flower Pots, the Houſe next beyond the Stables in Somerſet-houſe-yard; where Catalogues may be had, and the Pictures view'd Three Days before the Sale.

Adverti ſements.

To ſatisfy Gentlemen and Ladies who it is that would impoſe, in Relation to thoſe Men and Women's Gowns, to be ſold at the Olive-Tree and Still at Charing-Croſs; advertiz'd againſt in the Poſt-Man, with Invitation to Ludgate-Hill: If they pleaſe to enquire at any Shop on the ſaid Hill, they may be ſatisfied that there is not a Quarter of the Choice as there is in the Room at Charing-Croſs; nor can they afford ſo good Pennyworths, becauſe upon Examination, theſe will be truly found to be the Goods of Perſons that failed.

THE Sale of Looking-Glaſſes by Auction at the Engine Looking-Glaſs Warehouſe in Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, which was put off to the latter End of April, is now fixed for Tueſday the 9th Inſtant, without fail; where Attendance will be daily given, and Catalogues delivered out every Day till the Day of Sale, the Trade being left off, and the Houſe to be lett, and no more of the Engine-Work to be had after this Sale. Note: Moſt of the Glaſſes that were unfitted by Reaſon of the Time of the firſt Sale being prolonged, are now fitted up in curious Frames of ſeveral Sorts. This will be the fineſt Shew of great Glaſs, Tea-Tables, China-Wares, Fans, Indian Screens, and ſeveral other Rarities, that was ever ſhewn in England. They may be viewed every Day till the Time of Sale.

*** This Day is publiſh'd, Bibliotheca Anatomica, Medica, &c. containing a Deſcription of the ſeveral Parts of the Body: Each done by ſome One or more Eminent Phyſician or Chirurgeon; with their Diſeaſes and Cures. Illuſtrated with ſeveral Hundred Figures, done by the beſt Artiſts, and from the trueſt Deſigns, as appears by the Names to each Figure. This Sixth for April, contains Kerkeringius of the Generation of the Bones in the Fœtus, with Two large Plates, repreſenting the Bones of the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th Months, very near as big as the Life: Dom. Gaglard, Phyſician at Rome, his Anatomy of the Bones, &c. Printed by J. Nutt in the Savoy; and ſold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where may be had the preceding Months. Alſo, Atlas Geographus for March, and compleat Sets of them.

*** The Peerage of England, or an Hiſtorical and Genealogical Account of the preſent Nobility. Containing, the Deſcent, Original, Creations, and moſt remarkable Actions of them, and their reſpective Anceſtors. Alſo the chief Titles of Honour and Preferment they now enjoy: With their Marriages and Iſſue, continued down to the Year 1709. and the Paternal Coats of Arms of each Family in Blazon. Collected as well from our beſt Hiſtorians, publick Records, and other ſufficient Authorities, as from the perſonal Informations of moſt of the Nobility. To which is prefix'd, An Introduction of the preſent Royal Family of Great Britain, traced thro' its ſeveral Branches down to this Time, and terminating with the Proteſtant Succeſſion as ſettled by Act of Parliament. Printed for Abel Roper and Arthur Collins at the Black Boy in Fleetſtreet. Price 6 s. N. B. There's a ſmall Number printed on a large fine Paper. Price bound 10 s.

A Gentleman would purchaſe a Place for Life, about 150 l. or 200 l. per Annum, within the Bills of Mortality, leaving Particulars in Writing with Mr. Charles Mac Culloch, at the Wheat Sheaf againſt Tom's Coffee-houſe in Ruſſelſtreet, Covent-Garden, they will be further treated with about the ſame.

THIS Chryſtal Coſmetick, approved of by the Worthy Dr. Paul Chamberline, viz. cures all red Faces, takes off all Morphew, Pimples, and Freckles, cleanſing and adorning the Face and Hands of both Sexes in a very beautiful Manner. Price of the largeſt Bottle 6 s. the leſſer 3 s. Sold at Mr. Allcroft's by Exchange-alley, Cornhil; Mr. Jackſon's, the Corner of Wood-ſtreet, Cheapſide; the Comb under St. Dunſtan's Church, Fleetſtreet; Mrs. Brecknock's, the upper End of St. James's-ſtreet, Piccadilly. Note, to prevent Counterfeits, each ſingle Bottle with Directions, is tied and ſealed with this Coat of Arms, a Frett, with a Lion Rampant in a Canton.

THE Royal Beautifier; or the greateſt Coſmetick in the World: Which even to a Miracle fortifies the Skin againſt Wind and Sun, and makes ſuch as are pale and wan, look freſh and lively, and have a charming Countenance. It certainly takes away Freckles, Spots, Pimples, Scurf, Morphew, and Sun-burning; and miraculouſly makes the Complexion plump, freſh, ſmooth, and delicately fair, even to Admiration. It having met with great Applauſe, as appears by the daily Reſort of People from all Parts of the Town to fetch it, there being more than Ten Dozen diſpoſed of within theſe Fourteen Days. To prevent Counterfeits it is only ſold at Lemery's Head at Charing-Croſs, at 2 s. 6 d. per Pot, with Directions at large.

☞ An Incomparable Beautifying Cream for the Face, Neck and Hands, takes away all Freckles, Spots, Pimples, Wrinkles, Roughneſs, Scurf, Morphew, Yellowneſs, Sun-burning, renders the Skin admirably Clear, Fair, and Beautiful, has an excellent pretty Scent; is very ſafe and harmleſs, and vaſtly tranſcends all other Things; for it truly nouriſhes the Skin, making it inſtantly look Plump, Freſh, Smooth, and Delicately Fair, though before Wrinkled and Diſcolour'd. Sold only at Mr. Lawrence's, Toyſhop at the Griffin the Corner of the Poultry near Cheapſide, at 2 s. 6 d. a Gally-pot, with Directions. Beware of Counterfeits under other Names.